

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 6 | Number 4 (1904)

pps. 301-301

Use of Block-Houses During the Civil War [Historical Collections]

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Use of Block-Houses During the Civil War [Historical Collections]." *The Annals of Iowa* 6 (1904), 301-301.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2982>

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positive orders for detachments to stay by their posts and never leave them, not a single detachment that I remember was captured in its block-house or stockade. With the small force we had it would have been impossible to maintain our mail, telegraph and overland routes successfully, if it had not been for our system of block-houses and stockades, dotted for thousands of miles over each of the overland routes. It is evident from our experience in the West that our block-house and stockade system of defending our lines of communication was a great success, not only as against raids of cavalry, but from attacks of infantry and artillery, and saved to us a very large force for the field. I left on the line of the railway from Nashville to Athens during the Atlanta campaign only two regiments of negroes, taking with me my entire corps, and without the block-houses to defend the lines from Nashville to Stevenson and Stevenson to Atlanta, it would have taken a thousand men without block-house protection for every hundred required with it.

—*From the Army and Navy Journal.*

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